

Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 – Expedited Procedure

Serial No.: 09/780,288

Examiner: Kevin T. Bates

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

monitoring, by a network access controller, data packets being transmitted from and received by a client system for identifying data service sessions ~~services~~ which necessitate one of a higher transmission rate and higher quality standard than a first transmission service subscription;

receiving, in the network access controller, a request from the client system for a data service session to be provided by a server system, the request being directed to the server system, wherein the data service session is identified as a data service necessitating one of a higher transmission rate and higher quality standard than the first transmission service subscription;

determining if the client system is authorized for the data service session;

if the client system is authorized for the data service session , then sending the request to the server system; and

issuing a premium billing for the data service session based on the increase in the one of transmission rate and quality standard above the first transmission service subscription;

performing load balancing of active data service sessions across multiple paths in the network to the same destination.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller monitors individual packets passing between the client and the server.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller identifies the request by analyzing each packet transmitted from the client system.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller

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transmitting the reservation request to a capacity management system;
determining by the capacity management system if the reservation request can be granted and if so, allocating resources based on bandwidth availability and contracted service levels;
transmitting reservation parameters for the reservation request to the network access controller;
monitoring data packets that belong to the granted data service session to collect statistics for billing purposes by the network access controller; and
performing load balancing of service sessions by transmitting service sessions across multiple paths in the network to the same destination.

20.(New) The method of claim 19 further comprising the steps of:

transmitting test traffic messages from the network access controller to other network access controllers across multiple paths to measure quality of the multiple paths in the network.

21.(New) The method of claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

determining if the client system is authorized for the specific type of data service session requested in the reservation request; and
if the client system is authorized for the specific type of data service, then transmitting the reservation request to a server system.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

issuing a premium billing for the data service based on any increases in transmission rate and quality standard.

23. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

after receiving the reservation parameters for the reservation request by the network

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determines if the client system is pre-authorized for the data service session.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller determines if the client system is authorized by for a data service session by requesting authorization from a management system.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the client system is authorized for a data service session after a credit determination.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user of the client is billed according to the specific data services authorized for the client system.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller discards any request from the client system which is not authorized.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing, in the network access controller, statistical data relating to the data services delivered to the client system.

10 – 18. (Canceled) Please cancel claims 10 through 18.

19. (New) A method for providing quality of service to data sessions, comprising the steps of:
monitoring, by a network access controller, data packets from one or more client systems for identifying data packets that match reservations requests from a client for specific types of data service sessions;
receiving, in the network access controller, a reservation request from a client system that matches a reservation request for a specific type of data service session;

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access controller, transmitting the reservation request to a destination server system;
receiving a response from the destination server system; and
transmitting a notification of the response to the management system.

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